

*Washington, DC* - U.S. Congressman **Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23)**, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, announced Appropriations subcommittee-approved funding for technology upgrades, mobile data systems and visual intelligence tools in the 23<sup>rd</sup>

Congressional District.

The funding was approved Thursday by the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies. The request will now go to the full House for approval.

"This funding request is a giant stride toward equipping local law enforcement agencies with the tools they need to protect the community and secure our borders," Congressman Rodriguez said. "By helping to fund new technology, I am proud to support those who put their lives on the line to protect and serve."

The recommendations include:

\$250,000 for the El Paso County Sheriff's Department to upgrade equipment and technology infrastructure to combat increased crime on the U.S.-Mexico border. The upgrades include forensic system equipment, fingerprint workstations and personal protection gear for officers.

\$250,000 for the Medina County Sheriff's Office to create an interoperable emergency radio communications system to facilitate mobile dispatch and improve officer safety in the region. Currently, emergency response times are hampered by poor radio coverage in certain areas of the county.

\$250,000 to the Rio Grande Council of Governments, based in El Paso, to allow the mostly rural West Texas region access state-of-the-art digital, aerial imagery and geospatial information to improve preparation and response. The funds will also help coordinate emergency response in rural and remote areas. The area covers Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio and Brewster counties in West Texas and Doña Ana County in New Mexico.1

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